



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/566,147	08/04/2009	Richard Farrar	DEP5050USPCT	2006
27777	7590	06/25/2010		
PHILIP S. JOHNSON JOHNSON & JOHNSON ONE JOHNSON & JOHNSON PLAZA NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08933-7003			EXAMINER STEWART, JASON-DENNIS NEILKEN	
			ART UNIT 3738	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 06/25/2010	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

jnjuspatent@corus.jnj.com
lhowd@its.jnj.com
gsanche@its.jnj.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/566,147	Applicant(s) FARRAR ET AL.	
	Examiner JASON-DENNIS STEWART	Art Unit 3738	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 August 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 January 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>27 January 2006; 16 April 2008; 15 September 2009</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The following is a Non-Final Office action in response to communications received on 08/04/2009. Claims 1-15 have been cancelled. Therefore, Claims 16-46 are currently pending and addressed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 16-19, 25-31, 40-43, and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Burstein et al. 4,298,992.

3. Burstein discloses a total knee joint prosthesis having a femoral component (Figs. 1-3) and tibial component (Figs. 4-6). The femoral component has medial and lateral condyles 10, 12 that cooperate with the tibial bearing surfaces 32, 34.

Furthermore, the femoral component has a cam 20 that makes contact with a post 42 of the tibial component (Claims 16, 17, 40). The cam is also in the form of a bar and extends between the medial and lateral condyles on the posterior portion of the femoral component (Fig. 3) (Claims 25-27), and the femoral component has a web 16 which contacts the cam does not contact the post during articulation of the joint (Figs. 7a-7f) (Claim 31). The cam surface and post bearing surface are configured to contact one

Art Unit: 3738

another at a flex angle of about 90 degrees (Fig. 7e) (Claim 18). It should be noted that the angles at which the femoral and tibial components cooperate and the ratios of contact angles between components of the femoral and tibial components are functional limitations and hold limited patentable weight in the absence of differentiating structure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 20-24, 32-39, 44 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burstein et al. 4,298,992 in view of Burstein 2003/0023314.

6. Burstein '992 teaches the invention as claimed and as discussed above. Burstein also teaches a rounded cross-section of the cam as viewed along its length (Fig. 3). However, Burstein '992 does not explicitly teach a convex surface along the tibial post and a flattened or concave contact surface on the cam of the femoral component.

Burstein '314 teaches a cam with a substantially flat surface 20b and a concave section in its cross section (Fig. 3). Burstein '314 also illustrates a tibial post that is convex when viewed along the axis of the tibial axis (Fig. 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the cam of Burstein '992 with the concave bearing surface of the cam of Burstein '314 in order to increase the "jumping height" of the femur with respect

Art Unit: 3738

to the tibia at high flexion angles as taught by Burstein '314 (paragraph 25) and transmit a load to properly stabilize the joint (paragraph 6).

Regarding Claims 32-39, it should be noted that the angles at which the femoral and tibial components cooperate and the ratios of contact angles between components of the femoral and tibial components are functional limitations and hold limited patentable weight in the absence of differentiating structure. Regarding the radius of curvature of the cam, it has been held that “the normal desire of scientists or artisans to improve upon what is already generally known provides the motivation to determine where in a disclosed set of percentage ranges is the optimum combination of percentages.” *In re Petersen*. **See MPEP 2144.05, Section II, Part A.**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON-DENNIS STEWART whose telephone number is (571)270-3080. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (alt Fridays off) 7:30-5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on (571)272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3738

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/William H. Matthews/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3774

/Jason-Dennis Stewart/
Examiner, Art Unit 3738